

grounds of the University during the past season, a number of specimens showing these two forms of proliferation were found. Such specimens were especially numerous along an irrigating ditch which ran through the plat. This abnormal development was probably the effects of an over-supply of water. The form *A*, I have observed before. It is frequently produced in wet seasons on low and cold soil. In this case the floral glume is changed to a leaf, with other parts of spikelet normal. *a* represents an enlarged spikelet.

In the form *B* the spikelet is much changed from the normal. In a number of specimens there are four glumes, from between the inner pair of which extends a long stipe, generally more or less twisted and surmounted by a perfect flower. In some cases there are but two glumes below, with long stipe and perfect flower as before. In either case the glume above is very large, sometimes changed to a leaf, while the palea is inconspicuous, or there is none at all. *b* represents a spikelet of this form with four glumes below.—J. W. TOUMEY, *Botanical Laboratory, Univ. of Arizona.*

Iris hexagona.—In August, 1889, I collected at Carlinville in south-central Illinois fruiting specimens of an *Iris* whose species was not at the time determined because of the absence of flowers. In the season of 1890 the flowering period of the species passed without observation. A special watch was kept during the past summer and in early June the plant was taken in full bloom. With the exception of two points, viz., size of capsule and distribution the features of the plant tallied with the description of *I. hexagona*. Specimens were therefore sent to Dr. Sereno Watson who identified it as above designated. While the known distribution would suggest its occurrence in this state a careful search has found no record of such occurrence.—W. E. ANDREWS, *Carlinville, Illinois.*

EDITORIAL.

OUR READERS are invited to inspect carefully the table of contents and list of contributors which accompany this number. By doing so they will get a comprehensive view of "the high character and variety of the original communications"—to use the commendatory phrase of one of our most eminent friends. The printed pages bear evidence of much valuable research which we esteem it a privilege to publish. Our readers have a large and distinguished company to

thank for whatever of interest and instruction they have gained from the journal during the past year.

THE CLASSIFICATION of the original articles is of some interest. Naturally taxonomy and morphology lead with 44 titles, of which 32 belong to phanerogams and 12 to cryptogams; physiology stands next with 17 (including four entries relating to flowers and insects); anatomy and development have 10; teratology and variations 6, apparatus and methods 4; plant diseases 2; and reports of societies, etc., 5. Making allowance for the various other places of publication the relative numbers of articles probably represent fairly the character of work which is now going on, if we except the study of plant diseases. The economic bearings of this study usually determine the publication of articles on these subjects elsewhere.

WHEN THE great increase in sources of publication is considered it is rather surprising that the supply for a journal covering so wide a field as this continues unabated. The *Bulletins* of the Agricultural Experiment Stations, the *Proceedings* of various societies and academies, the *West American Scientist*, *Zoe*, the *American Naturalist*, the *American Journal of Science*, the *American Garden*, *Garden and Forest* and other similar journals contain many botanical articles; the *Annals of Botany* takes off some of the longer papers; while the *Bulletin* of the Torrey Botanical Club and the *Journal of Mycology* are replete with original articles and summaries of current work. Is there, by reason of these abundant sources of publication, temptation to the sending out of hasty and incomplete work?

THE EDITORS' LABOR during the year has not been inconsiderable. Twenty works have received extended review, and nearly fifty shorter notices have been written to keep abreast of the "Current Literature" sent to our table for review. Under the heading "Notes and News" have appeared nearly 200 items, giving a great variety of information about current events in the botanical world. This, together with the routine work connected with the regular issuance of the journal, has involved an expenditure of energy which few can appreciate who do not know it from experience. It has been to the editors a labor of love, however. They hope that the readers of the GAZETTE have been helped by it to a wider knowledge and a more zealous study of the science which we all delight to honor.

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ATTENTION is called to the announcements on the last page of the cover.